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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/019,941	05/08/2002	Peter Christoffel Bezuijen	2001-1003	8756

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EXAMINER

WONG, LESLIE

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2167

DATE MAILED: 03/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/019,941

Applicant(s)

BEZUIJEN, PETER

Examiner

Leslie Wong

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 May 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 07 Jan 2002.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement, filed 07 January 2002, has been received, entered into the record, and considered. See attached form PTO-1449.

Priority

2. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed in parent Application No. 1012519, filed on 05 July 1999 and Application NO. 1013177, filed on 29 September 1999.

Specification

3. The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

Arrangement of the Specification

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
- (d) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC (See 37 CFR 1.52(e)(5) and MPEP 608.05. Computer program listings (37 CFR 1.96(c)), "Sequence Listings" (37 CFR 1.821(c)), and tables having more than 50 pages of text are permitted to be submitted on compact discs.) or
REFERENCE TO A "MICROFICHE APPENDIX" (See MPEP § 608.05(a). "Microfiche Appendices" were accepted by the Office until March 1, 2001.)
- (e) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.
 - (1) Field of the Invention.

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(2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.

(f) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.

(g) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).

(h) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.

(i) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).

(j) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).

(k) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-4, 11-12, 13-16, and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by **Uhl et al.** ("Uhl") (U.S. Patent 6,292,709 B1).

Regarding claims 1 and 13, **Uhl** teaches installation and method for updating an address database with recorded address records, comprising:

a). at least one processor (14, 15, 42) for receiving and processing address data as shown on items of post (col.1, lines 10-14 and Fig. 6);

b). a memory (22), connected to the at least one processor (14, 15, 42) for storing the address data (col. 6, lines 1-7 and Fig. 6);

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c). a database memory 944), connected to the at least one processor (14, 15, 42), containing the address database stored therein (col. 5, lines 59-62; and col. 6, lines 1-6 and Fig. 6) characterized in that

d). the at least one processor (14, 15, 42) is equipped to determined a quality rating for the address data on the basis of predefined criteria, to compare the address data with the address records stored in the database memory (44) and to update the content of the database memory (44) on the basis of the quality rating and the comparison of the address data with the stored address records (col. 5, lines 50-62, col. 5, lines 13-19 and abstract).

Regarding claims 2-4 and 14-16, **Uhl** further teaches wherein the at least one processor is equipped to select name lines from the address data to split the names lines into individual elements in accordance with predefined rules and partly to base the quality rating on the selection of name lines and the splitting thereof (col. 4, lines 8-19 and col. 5 lines 50-62).

Regarding claims 11 and 23, **Uhl** further teaches wherein the address database is stored with security, such that either the data stored in the central database can be processed only via predefined rules or some of the data stored in the central database can be accessed via a predefined output routine (col.10, lines 52-59).

Regarding claims 12 and 24, **Uhl** further teaches wherein post sorting unit (26, 28) for automatic sorting of the items of post (1) making use of the address database (col. 9, lines 36-52).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. Claims 5-10 and 17-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Uhl et al.** ("Uhl") (U.S. Patent 6,292,709 B1) as applied to claims 1-4, 11-12, 13-16, and 23-24 in view of **Byrd, Jr. et al.** ("Byrd") (U.S. Patent 5,832,480).

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Regarding claims 5 and 17, **Uhl** further teaches wherein the at least one processor is equipped to derive a name for an addressee from the name lines, to derive an address for the addressee from the address data, to read registered names of persons residing at the address from the address database and to compare these with the name of the addressee (col. 2, lines 34-36).

Uhl does not explicitly teach on the basis of that comparison, to determine a comparison score per registered name, a comparison score having a higher value the greater the degree of correspondence between the name of the addressee and a respective registered name.

Byrd, however, teaches the equivalence processor scans the list of name elements until it finds a name element with a high confidence score for a given entity type. The entity-type check processes results in a certain confidence score. If the confidence score is high enough, the entity type is assigned to the name element and the values of the relevant attributes are set (col. 18, lines 15-18; col. 15, lines 25-35).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of the cited references because **Byrd's** teaching would have allowed **Uhl's** to facilitate identification of variant of a name by scanning the list of name elements until it finds a name element with a high confidence score as suggested by **Byrd** at (col. col. 4, lines 9-11 and 15-18).

Regarding claims 6 and 18, **Uhl** further teaches wherein the at least one processor is equipped to determine that the address data are new if the comparison

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scores are relatively low and the quality rating is relatively high (col. 5, lines 6-14; col. 6, lines 53-55; col. 10, lines 60-64).

Regarding claims 7 and 19, **Uhl** further teaches wherein the at least one processor is equipped to determine that the address data are known (i.e., correct address) if the comparison scores are relatively high and the quality rating is relatively high (col. 9, lines 59-65).

Regarding claims 8, 10, 20, and 22, **Uhl** further teaches wherein the at least one processor is equipped to determined that the address data are unknown if the comparison scores are relatively low and the quality rating is relatively low (col. 2, lines 14-18 and col. 9, lines 6-17).

Regarding claims 9 and 21, **Uhl** further teaches wherein the at least one processor is equipped to generate an additional address record, containing the address data, in the address database if the address data are new (col. 2, lines 20-22).

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Mao et al. (US006327386B1)

Seestrom et al. (US006647385B2)

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Cacace-Bailey et al. (US006508365B1)

Allen et al. (US005422821A)

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leslie Wong whose telephone number is (571) 272-4120. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 9:30am - 6:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E Breene can be reached on (571) 272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Leslie Wong
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2167

LW
March 6, 2005